Flights cancelled due to fog

1863. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flights from Delhi Airport are disrupted every year during the winter season though the airport is equipped with advanced CAT-III instrument;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of flights cancelled during the months of December, January, 2007 and February, 2008; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation at the Delhi Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It has not been possible to fully utilise the CAT IIII B Instrument Landing System at IGI Airport, Delhi mainly due to non-availability of sufficient number of trained and qualified pilots with the airlines to operate flights under the permissible visibility conditions.

(c) Information is being collected.

(d) Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) is constructing 3rd runway at IGI airport with the facility of CAT III B ILS at both ends. DIAL has also increased the number of CAT III aircraft parking bays from 28 to 55.

Furthermore, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in conjunction with the airport operator has issued directions to airlines aimed at improving further operations during fog. This includes mandating CAT III certified pilots to be positioned at IGI airport during expected fog period.

The airlines are also encouraged to upgrade their aeroplanes and train their pilots for operations in low visibility conditions. Their flight schedules through Delhi are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operators for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations. Operators who cannot provide data about their capability to fly under low visibility, are not allowed to schedule their flights through Delhi Airport during the fog period.

Smooth movement of passengers at Delhi Airport

1864. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi accounted for the highest growth in air passenger movement in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the smooth movement in Delhi Airport especially keeping in view the Commonwealth Games 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Delhi International Airport Private Limited would, *inter alia*, build a new integrated terminal for both domestic and international traffic, a new runway, a new domestic terminal and renovate the existing international terminal. With this the Indira Gandhi International Airport will be able to cater to 37 million passengers per year as against the projected demand of 29 million passengers per year for 2010.

Vehicle-tracking system at airports

1865. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a vehicle-tracking system at the taxiways at Delhi, Hyderabad Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a system has been set up in other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with feed-back of their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi is in the process of installing Vehicle Tracking System on the operational vehicles which are required to go to airside *viz.* Follow ME Jeeps, Fire Vehicles, with Global Positioning System (GPS) based solution.

In addition to the above, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has installed Aircraft tracking system in form of ASMGCS (Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System). The system is operational at IGI Airport, Delhi. The system can also be used to track vehicles after installing suitable equipment in the vehicles. The ASMGCS system is being provided at the greenfield airports in Hyderabad and Bangalore. It is also planned to provide ASMGCS at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata Airports. The ASMGCS is being augmented at IGI Airport where a new third Runway is under construction.

(c) and (d) Similar systems are operational in other countries.

Air services from Surat Airport

1866. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to tate:

(a) the number of scheduled flights being operated at Surat Airport, at present;

(b) the future plan to increase number of flights and air connectivity from Surat Airport;

(c) the major cities directly connected by air with Surat Airport;

(d) how many cities will be linked by direct air connectivity with Surat Airport by the end f year 2008; and

(e) by when the terminal building at Surat Airport, which is under construction would become operational for all purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present, Delhi and Ahmedabad are air linked with Surat Airport as per the details given below: